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(54) **Processless imaging material containing heat-sensitive sulphonate polymer**

(57) A positive-working imaging member is composed of a heat-sensitive surface imageable layer having a heat-sensitive polymer containing heat-activatable sulfoimino, sulfoalkyl, or sulfoamide groups, and a photothermal conversion material. Upon application of thermal energy, such as from IR irradiation, the sulfonate groups decompose rendering exposed areas more hydrophilic. The exposed imaging member can be contacted with a lithographic printing ink and used for printing without post-imaging wet processing. This imaging member is particularly useful for direct write imaging using IR lasers or thermal printing heads.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 00 30 5537

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 23 February 2001	Examiner Magrizos, S
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